

Meeting of Medical Societies.

THE TORONTO MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 8, 1891.

The President, Dr. Spencer, in the chair.

Dr. Grasett exhibited a series of specimens of

VESICAL CALCULI.

Seven large facettèd calculi had been removed from a male patient, æt. 51, by the operation of lateral lithotomy. The man had suffered from symptoms of vesical calculus for fourteen years, but not until latterly, when the pain and discomfort became almost unbearable, would he consent to an operation. The aggregate weight of the seven calculi was just short of half a pound.

KOCH'S TREATMENT FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. Bingham made a communication to the society, giving an account of the impressions he had formed whilst studying the cases under Koch's treatment in the New York hospitals. Seventy-five per cent. of these were lupus cases. He described the symptoms which indicate the reaction after injection, and then proceeded to refer to the effect of treatment in the various manifestations of tubercular disease. In phthisis, all the cases seen were incipient; the swelling which occurs as a local effect of the injection causes great dyspnoea in laryngeal phthisis and almost makes tracheotomy necessary, but it soon subsides, and diminishes at each subsequent injection. The reaction is more marked in lupus than in other cases of tubercular disease. A case of tubercular prostate, which was complicated with a supra-pubic fistula, was much improved under treatment, and after eight injections the urine passed almost entirely by the urethra. The remedy was tried in a case of leprosy; after the fourth injection, the face assumed a shade two degrees lighter than formerly; the trunk and extremities became marbled, in consequence of patches of healthy tissue occurring among the leprosy. In a case of doubt in the diagnosis between lupus and tertiary syphilis, a typical reaction was obtained.

Dr. Sheard referred to the indications for and against the employment of the remedy, and condemned the practice of submitting patients far advanced in phthisis to the treatment. He then referred to two cases under treatment in

the General Hospital. In the case of incipient phthisis, the sputum was not increased in amount; it was not examined for bacilli. Before injection there were rales to be heard at the right apex, and there only; twenty hours after injection, rales were developed all over the left lung; at the right apex were coarse crepitations and tubular breath sounds. In the second case, that of lupus of twenty years standing, there is a marked reaction, consisting of swelling and injection of the cicatricial tissue; since the injection, the highest temperature has been 99.6 F. In speculating as to the nature of Koch's fluid, Dr. Sheard stated that from a study of the symptoms presented during reaction, one would be inclined to look upon the effect as an induced form of septicæmia.

Dr. Price Brown called the attention of the society to the efficacy of chloride of gold in the treatment of phthisis. This method has recently been suggested by Messrs. Gibbs and Shurly of Detroit.

Jan. 15.

The President, Dr. Spencer, in the chair.

Dr. Oldright presented a specimen of

(a) PERFORATION OF THE INTESTINE OF TRAUMATIC ORIGIN.

The man was said to have been kicked on the belly; he walked home after the injury, and subsequently developed symptoms of peritonitis; an operation was thought advisable, but he suddenly became collapsed and died thirty-six hours after receiving the injury. A *post mortem* examination revealed injection of the peritoneum, intestines glued together, deposits of lymph and a large quantity of pus in the peritoneal cavity. On the ileum, six or seven inches from the cæcum, was found a rupture seven-eighths of an inch in length on the anterior aspect of the gut. A second specimen was presented by Dr. Oldright,

(b) PORTION OF A NEEDLE REMOVED FROM THE KNEE-JOINT.

A child, four years old, drove a darning-needle into her knee by falling upon it. After cutting down upon it, the needle was found to have been driven into the upper portion of the tibia, and in the efforts to extract it a portion was left behind embedded in the bone.